

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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R 101135Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0027

LIMDIS

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR QA TC SA KU BA MU IZ IR

SUBJ: QATARI ARMED FORCES COMMANDER ON GULF AFFAIRS, GULF SECURITY,
ETC.

1. DURING JAN 7 CONVERSATIONS WITH VISITING COMIDEASTFOR ADMIRAL
THOMAS J. BIGLEY AND AMBASSADOR, SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL
THANI, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES, COMMENTED
ON NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF GULF AFFAIRS.

2. RE GULF SECURITY PACT, HAMAD ECHOED AMIR'S VIEW THAT
ARRANGEMENTS MUST FIRST BE WORKED OUT AMONG BIG GULF STATES,
I.E. SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN AND POSSIBLY IRAQ, AND THEN SMALLER
STATES SHOULD BE INVITED TO ADHERE.

3. RE IRAQ, HAMAD DESCRIBED IT AS "BROTHERLY" ARAB COUNTRY,
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BUT NOTED ITS IDEOLOGY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF GOQ. HE

INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH IRAQIS HAD IMPROVED THEIR BEHAVIOR,
THEY STILL BORE CLOSE WATCHING.

4. CONCERNING DISPUTE WITH BAHRAIN, HAMAD REITERATED GOQ'S
UNASSAILABLE RIGHT TO HWAR ISLAND, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED PRESENCE
OF BAHRAINI POLICE POSTS THERE. IN DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED
CAUSEWAY BETWEEN BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA, HAMAD VENTURED VIEW
THAT SAUDIS REALLY DID NOT WANT THIS SINCE IT WOULD EXPOSE
KINGDOM TO POSSIBLE CONTAGION FROM BAHRAINI RADICALS. HAMAD
SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT MAKE MORE SENSE FOR THERE TO BE CAUSEWAY
FROM QATAR TO BAHRAIN; HE SEEMED TO THINK PRINCIPAL USE OF SUCH
CAUSEWAY WOULD BE TO FACILITATE RAPID GOQ INTERVENTION IN
BAHRAIN SHOULD RADICALS ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW PRESENT REGIME.
HAMAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT QATARI INTERVENTION IN BAHRAIN,
SHOULD THE AL KHALIFA FAMILY BE THREATENED, WOULD BE LESS
CONSPICUOUS AND MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN SAUDI INTERVENTION.
(COMMENT: HAMAD'S VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF QATARI INTERVENTION
IN BAHRAIN ARE MOST ASSUREDLY HIS OWN, AND DO NOT REPRESENT
ANY SERIOUS THINKING HERE.)
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